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TODAY'S WEATHER: Moderate East or Northeast winds; fair.
1 p.m. Observations: Barometric pressure, 1014.0 mbs., 29.94 in.
Temperature, 80 deg. F. Dew point, 71 deg. F. Relative humidity,
74. Wind direction, ESE. Wind force, 10 knots.
Low water: 3 ft. 4 in. at 6.09 p.m. High water: 7 ft. 7 in.
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VOL. III NO. 248 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1948. Price: 20 Cents

Four Burned To Death

Texas City, Oct. 19.—Four people were burned to death and about 40 others injured in a gas explosion and fire which swept a line of cars at a level crossing here last night.

The Texas City fire chief said the explosion was caused by the ignition of an accumulation of gas which had leaked from a pipeline alongside the highway.

Witnesses said the gas, which hung in the roadside ditches in a fog, went up in a huge puff of flame.

The explosion started rumours that Texas City was menaced by a repetition of the explosions and fires of April 1947, which killed 512 and devastated the city.—Reuter.

CHILD KEPT FROM ITS MOTHER

Plymouth, Oct. 19.—Stella Costello, aged 24, described as a housewife of Inkerman Street, Swansea, was committed at Plymouth today for trial with unlawfully detaining 18-months old George Barry Buller by force with intent to deprive his mother of his possession in March 1945.

She pleaded not guilty and reserved her defence.

The prosecution said that she might have taken the child to get her discharge from the A.T.S. by posing as a married woman.

The mother, Mrs. Ruth Constance Buller, said that Costello sometimes took Barry out. On March 5, 1945, she asked to take Barry out for the day. Mrs. Buller said that she did not see the child again until September of this year.—Reuter.

Alleged Sale Of Blood For Profit

Shanghai, Oct. 20.—Mrs. Kwen Tai-ze was charged by a Shanghai procurator court for selling blood at a profit.

The woman claimed her business as well as her profit was legitimate. The police didn't mind the business much but they didn't approve of the profit.

She is alleged to have sold 300 cc. of donated blood to the 4th municipal hospital. She charged the hospital 30 gold yuan and gave the donor only 10 yuan.—Associated Press.

STRIKERS FIGHT POLICE WITH STONES AND IRON

Several Injured In French Coalfield Clashes

Paris, Oct. 19.—Twenty security guards were injured and about an equal number of strikers were hurt when striking French miners clashed with troops and police, who earlier had occupied pitheads at Roche La Moliere, near St Etienne. Eight strikers were arrested.

The strikers hurled stones and lumps of iron at the soldiers and police while the latter replied by using the butts of their rifles. The battle lasted nearly an hour.

When the Government forces arrived at the Roche La Moliere coal mine, they found 1,500 miners massed and waiting for them. After a few minutes' hesitation, the strikers left quietly.

Soon after noon, however, the miners attacked with larger forces. Earlier reports said the miners had improvised barricades from pit props, ready to resist police entry.

With the floodwaters rising in some strike-bound mines, the Communist-led Miners Union headquarters at Carmaux, 40 miles north-east of Toulouse, earlier today called on pit miners and their wives to bar the way to the Government security squads sent to protect volunteers at the pumps.

St Etienne is "virtually in a state of siege. It is estimated that nearly 10,000 troops and security police are now in the area.

Armed police patrol the town, day and night. Citizens are frequently stopped and asked for identification papers. All public meetings have been prohibited.

MORE TROUBLE EXPECTED

The police headquarters at St Etienne expect more serious trouble when the troops are to take over the two most important coalmines in the district at Couriol and Chateaufort.

At the strikers' headquarters, it was being said that the miners intended to defend their pickets there "with all their might."

Three other mines were taken over by the police early today. Nine or 10 pitheads are still occupied by the strikers.



Groups of passengers from a charter airliner which made a crash landing on tiny Haines Cay in the Bahamas Island group, watched a Navy rescue plane. All 23 persons aboard escaped injury as the pilot belly-landed on a narrow sandy beach. The survivors wrote "no water" in the sand, and planes dropped tins of food and water.—AP Picture.

REDS CLAIM CAPTURE OF CHANGCHUN

NO COMMENT BY NATIONALISTS

San Francisco, Oct. 19.—The Chinese Communists claimed that Changchun fell to red troops at noon on Tuesday, China time, after the government 60th Army, revolted against orders of Chiang Kai-shek.

The Communist broadcast said: "The city fell when the United States equipped 7th Government Army grounded arms."

"General Tseng Tse-sheng, commander of the 60th, showed his captors an order signed by Chiang and dropped by plane. It told Changchun defenders to abandon Changchun and fight 175 miles south-west to Mukden. But Government troops were starving and too weak to make a breakthrough."

The Government commanders were threatened with "severe punishment" if they failed to carry out the "absurd order," the broadcast said.

The Communist also claimed that their forces had captured the highway junction of Tungku, 90 miles northeast of Nanking.—Associated Press.

CLAIM PROBABLY TRUE

Nanking, Oct. 20.—Chinese Government officials declined comment on Tuesday on a Communist radio claim that the Nationalist 60th Army in Changchun has surrendered to the Reds, but on the basis of previous reports from the Manchurian capital observers here said it appeared likely.

The Red radio said General Tseng Tse-shen and his troops, mostly Yunnanese veterans, revolted and went over to the Communists, turning their guns on the new 7th Army, also part of the Changchun garrison.

More Money For Police Informers

Shanghai, Oct. 20.—Informers in Shanghai will make double their money from today onwards.

The Supervisor of Economic Control announced the official rate for informer rewards has been raised from 18 to 40 percent of the total haul.

Transactions police are particularly interested in are: the sale of gold, silver and foreign currencies above the official rates, hoarding of cotton yarn and piece goods and purchase of gold ornaments at higher than the official prices.—Associated Press.

Waiting To Be Rescued

Council To Examine Berlin "Decisions" On Friday

Paris, Oct. 19.—Dr Juan Bramuglia, Chairman of the Security Council, announced tonight that on Friday the Council would "examine the decisions which it can take" on the Berlin dispute. The Council adjourned this evening until Friday, after hearing the British and United States delegates reiterate that the Berlin blockade alone prevented four-power discussion on the whole German problem.

The Soviet Government, after boycotting any discussion of the Berlin issue in the Security Council, today found a "shadow" method of answering Western charges while ostensibly remaining silent.

Mr Andrei Vyshinsky's press officer today distributed to the delegates and newspapermen pocket-size booklets entitled "The Soviet Union and the Berlin Question (Documents)", apparently printed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union.

From these documents, the gist of the Soviet "shadow reply" would appear to be that the real blame for the trouble in Berlin is to be laid on the Western Powers, and that the immediate cause of the Berlin crisis was the separate currency reform introduced on June 18. This, the booklet says, caused "irreparable damage to the economic rehabilitation of Germany."

At this evening's Security Council meeting, Mr Vyshinsky, in reading a magazine, while Sir Alexander Cadogan (Britain) said that when the blockade was lifted the threat to peace would disappear, and the Western Powers would be ready to discuss the whole German problem.

Speaking during the third debate on the dispute, Sir Alexander replied in the name of the three Western Powers to the questions put to them at the Council's last meeting by Dr Bramuglia.

He gave a review of the events leading up to the Soviet imposition of the restrictions on traffic between the Western Zones and Berlin.

Coming to the present situation, Sir Alexander said, with particular emphasis: "It is now abundantly clear—and I can hardly think that anyone can feel any doubt on this score—that it is the continuance of the blockade and this alone which constitutes the barrier to the resumption of four-power negotiations on German questions, which the Governments of the United Kingdom, France and the United States have repeatedly declared that they are willing to undertake as soon as the restrictions have been removed."

Sir Alexander went on: "It is the contention of my Government that the continuance of these blockades, these measures constitutes a barrier to negotiations between the four occupying powers to settle outstanding problems regarding Berlin and Germany as a whole. It is this issue which the Security Council have been asked to consider. When these restrictions have been removed, this infringement of the rights and obligations of His Majesty's Government as an occupying power in Berlin will also be removed, the challenge to the United Nations will be withdrawn, the threat to the peace will disappear, and negotiations for the settlement of outstanding issues as regards Berlin and Germany can begin at once."

FOUR POINTS

Sir Alexander Cadogan then made four points:

1. The very great variety of the restrictions between March and July.
2. The imposition of these restrictions constituted a planned and insidious attempt to harass the Western occupying powers in the discharge of their obligations in Berlin, and to whittle away their rights as an occupying power.
3. The variety and inconsistency of the reasons given by the Russian authorities for their action.
4. The manifest insincerity of the reasons advanced.

(Continued on Page 5)

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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Furious Fighting On Negev Front

Tel-Aviv, Oct. 19.—Fighting raged with fury on the Negev front in Southern Palestine in expectation of a ceasefire in compliance with United Nations orders.

Jewish front reports said both sides had thrown all their forces into battle and asserted that the Egyptians had moved in reinforcements from the area south of Jerusalem.

It was understood the Jewish government was ready to order a ceasefire when it receives United Nations demand and there is evidence the Egyptians will fulfil it.

However, Jewish Foreign Office sources said they thought it would be "unjust" and "impossible" to comply with the United Nations suggestion that both sides withdraw to their original positions.

AIR-SEA BATTLE

Egyptian reports in Cairo agreed that there was ferocious fighting in Negev. The official spokesman in Cairo reported also an air-sea battle off the Palestine coast in which, he said, one Jewish ship was hit by Egyptian planes and two Jewish planes shot down. The loss of one Egyptian plane was admitted.

It was believed here that arrangements for a ceasefire order might take at least three more days and both sides would try to gain advantages during that period.

The Jewish commanders at the front asserted that their men were within five miles of Gaza.

Egyptian artillery was reported to be intensifying bombardment of newly-won Jewish positions.—United Press.

FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN

Tel-Aviv, Oct. 19.—Two Egyptian Air Force fighters were shot down today—one by Israeli gunfire between Tel-Aviv and Majdal, and the other by an Israeli air pilot, an Israeli communiqué stated tonight.

Both Egyptian planes crashed on Israeli territory, the communiqué added. The Israeli military spokesman said Egyptian planes bombed Jewish settlements south of Gaza last night while the Israeli Air Force bombed Egyptian troops and vehicle concentrations in the Negev area.

Direct hits on the Egyptian concentrations—were observed by the Israeli pilots who made more than one attack, the spokesman added.

Referring to an alert and anti-aircraft fire in Cairo, the spokesman stated that no Israeli planes were near Cairo last night.

A United Nations source in Haifa reported that heavy fighting between Israeli and Egyptian forces continued today in the Negev area of southern Palestine.

Reports reaching Haifa, United Nations headquarters, indicated that hostilities are also flaring up on other fronts.

A United Nations rear-guard team in Gaza counted at least 25 bombs dropped by Jewish planes on Gaza since Monday, during which heavy gun and mortar fire continued.

The Jewish authorities have granted no satisfaction to a United Nations observer's request to hold their fire in the immediate vicinity of Gaza Airport to allow the daily United Nations plane to land.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Leighton Hill Flats

THE outcry against the extravagance and expensiveness of the Leighton Hill Government flats should come as no surprise to the authorities. The wall is not against civil servants being afforded private living accommodation—to that they are entitled. But the Leighton Hill flats are a symbol of the careless spending spree to which Government seems so susceptible when looking after its own. To financial aid for approved general housing schemes intended to benefit the public, Government turns a deaf ear, pleading the impossibility of advancing loans. But when it comes to providing houses for its own servants, nothing, it would appear, can be too good and no expense too much. As yet there has been no official statement as to the cost of the Leighton Hill flats, but if the unofficial estimates are anything like correct, the outlay is stupendous, to say the least. These handsome and costly buildings provide a typical official contradiction. While the Government's financial advisers are insisting upon more economy in expenditure on works that would benefit the community generally, uttering dark warnings about the Colony "not yet being out of the financial wood," millions of public dollars are being bilkily spent on improving living conditions for a comparatively few privileged families. We have argued a dozen times that only those with sufficient private means can today afford to build grandiose homes, and as Government has only public means at its disposal, we fail to see why it should not practise economy in the type of dwelling houses it builds for civil servants. For Government to insist upon

economy in some directions and become virtually spendthrift in others invites nothing but public cynicism. One correspondent raises a pertinent point. How can Government expect to cover capital outlay, depreciation, and maintenance costs from these buildings if the highest rent obtainable is equivalent to one-seventh of a tenant's income? The prospect is that it will require the best part of 20 years to recoup the initial cost alone, meaning general funds must still bear the burden of interest charges, maintenance and depreciation. The Leighton Hill building programme also throws the spotlight on a peculiarity in procedure. So far as we can recollect the Legislative Council has never discussed the scheme—either the design or the cost of the flats. Any town council elsewhere would have a similar project thrashed out in finance committee, and then referred to the council for full consideration and discussion. In Hongkong, apparently it is felt that money can be spent with impunity without reference to any public opinion. The method of fait accompli undoubtedly operates very nicely, but it hardly instils confidence in the public, which finds that while many of its own requirements are left to go begging, there are no effective means of stopping Government from spending to its heart's content on pet projects. We are probably wasting our time by suggesting that Government make a statement on this subject, but if it did, for once, feel it owed some duty to the public, an explanation would be thoroughly appreciated.

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WOMANSENSE

Beef, Braised On A Bed Of Vegetables, Is A Tasty Dish

"WHAT an appetizing smell!" I said, poking my head into the kitchen.

"Come and look," said the Chef. "I am getting the bed of vegetables ready to braise the beef. There is the celery cut in big dice, the carrot cut in quarters, one clove garlic cut in little pieces and plenty of green onion tops I have cut up. And they are all cooking together in a little margarine."

"But Chef," I added something else, "I said, smiling."

"Ah, that is a little marjoram and 1/2 tsp. of the mixed pickle spice."

"Ze touch of ze Chef," I exclaimed.

"Now I want to show you the meat, Madame."

Piece of Beef

He took from the refrigerator a big thick flat piece of beef.

"That's plate," I said.

"What plate, Madame, the dinner is not ready?"

"I mean we call that cut of beef the plate."

"Ah, out, I understand. That is because it looks so flat. Of course, it is not the sirloin steak or the porterhouse; it is one of the most expensive cuts I can find. But I will make it tender. First, I shall brown all over; then I shall braise for several hours on the bed of vegetables I am sauteing. But I shall add only a very little water. I shall cover the pan very tight and cook nice and slow. I have planned to

add some turnips and whole onions about an hour before the meat is done."

"I'm sure the meal will be delicious," I said, "and well within the most modest budget."

Careful Watching

However, braised beef needs careful watching lest it burns, because so little liquid is used in the cooking.

The best method is to use the pressure cooker. The high internal heat, which at 15 lb. pressure, is 250 F., quickly breaks down the tough meat fibres, and produces fork-tender meat in less than a fourth of the usual cooking time.

THE KITCHEN FRONT

by
IDA BAILEY ALLEN

"You know, Chef, there are three ways to describe meat after it's cooked," I went on. "It's knife-tender, when you have a fork-tender when you cut it with a fork."

"And spoon-tender when you use it for soup!" completed the Chef.

And here's an important point to remember. No matter how tough raw meat may be, it can be made fork-tender and digestible either by long-time cooking in moist heat, or by short-time pressure cooking. No homemaker need hesitate to feed her family—even young children—with the so-called tough cuts of

THE GRAY ENSEMBLE



By VERA WINSTON

THE SVELTE SUIT rich with braid, embroidery or beading can be very attractive in its place, but it isn't of much use for a daily diet. A suit that can be worn right through one day or many days, a suit that lends itself to dressing up or can be worn just as it is, is this one in dark gray worsted. New interesting details go with this simple suit. The collar is convertible, there is a simulated shoulder yoke, and the slim jacket is nicely piped in grosgrain. The men like to have a good gray suit in their wardrobe, and it's a good idea for the girls too, for gray is a good and dependable colour.

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The younger generation, too, apparently can wear it with charm. The actual waist-line need not be over-accented in this silhouette, and since the demarcation is not so pronounced, it is much easier to wear.

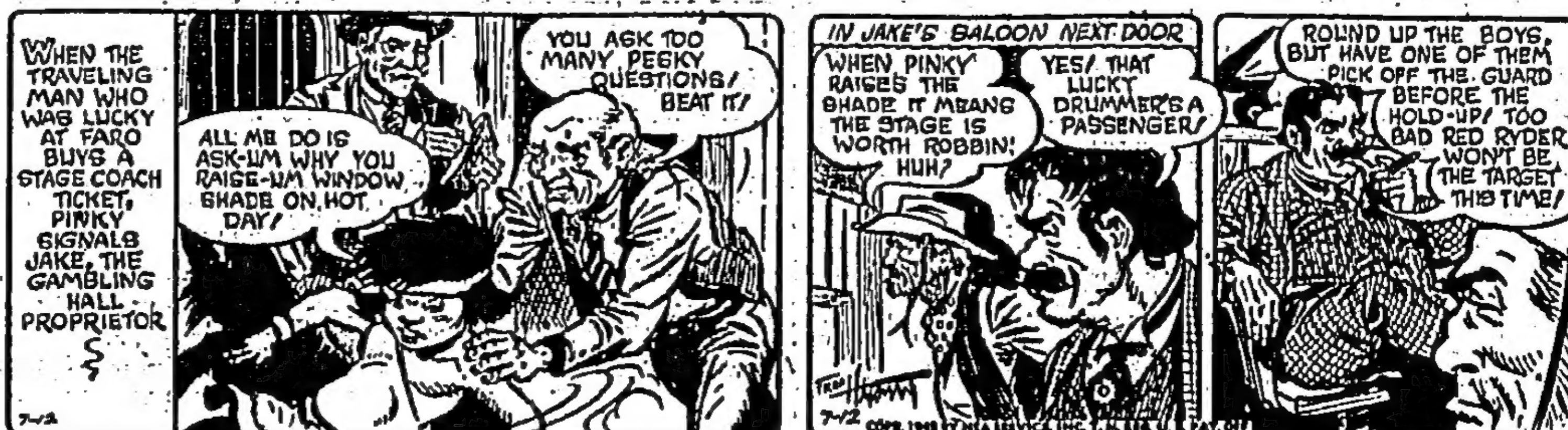
Regency Neckline Suggested

Arthur Banks, who is primarily responsible for the introduction of the new line, carries it through from his suits for morning—where he makes a jacket half of solid colour to match the skirt and a striped top which includes the sleeves and buttons to a high novel turn-over collar, strongly suggestive of a Regency neckline.

For a semi-formal dress the higher waist is carried up to a satin band just below the bust with a striped top which shows a low décolletage only in front, the back being carried up to the nape and tucking in the cap sleeves. The skirt, with its five rows of tucks, looks narrower than it is; in fact, it is easy to walk in, and is by no means of the hobbie type.

On the other hand, Banks believes that the wider skirt also lends itself to the Empire line. This is achieved by the introduction of a wide hip-yoke, sloping shoulders and an adaptation of the Byron collar, often in striped taffeta on a dress of dark, solid colour. The wide cape collar is interpreted in the form of a wide cape with two long wide scarves which are tucked beneath the belt, while the point of the cape at the back is buttoned to the dress.

RED RYDER



Signal Received

By Fred Harman

CURE FOR OILY SKIN



Use a complexion brush to stimulate circulation

By LOIS LEEDS

ONLY Skins are the exception, due to the strain of modern living which tends to dry the skin. Always look to your diet if you suffer from an oily skin. Eliminate rich foods and stimulating liquids. This too-oily skin is often caused by sluggish circulation. The skin and oil glands do not function properly, the tiny pores cannot throw off the

oily secretions fast enough. The accumulation of oil and dirt clogging the mouths of the enlarged pores.

Cleanse the Oily Skin with soap and water. Use a complexion brush. This cleanses the pores and aids in stimulating circulation. And remember that stimulated circulation is the important thing in caring for the oily skin. Masks and astringents are also good. No "nourishing" oils or creams should be used. If the skin feels drawn after washing, apply a tiny bit of cream. Remove it immediately with tissues. Sponges the skin with a mild freresher and apply liquid powder to give a nice, smooth finish.

Normal skins must be kept normal. Even if your skin is beautiful it needs care in cleansing. The normal skin may use soap and water or cream for cleansing but it needs toning to freshen and keep it clean. It needs cream to lubricate and smooth.

Special Preparations for Home Treatments for Oily Skin. Complexion soap. Complexion brush to stimulate circulation when washing. Astringent lotion, which hazel or skin freresher. A cream especially created for Oily Skin. (This is to be used only if the skin feels "tight" or "drawn".)

If pores are very coarse, a little Pore Cream, used at night, will aid in normalising the condition.

BEAUTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Q—"My hair is nice except the ends. How can I soften them?"

A—Cut the ends, then use a pomade on the "new ends". Put just a little on your fingers, then pull the hair gently between your pomaded fingers.

Q—I have a tiny mouth. I am fifty years of age and I look old around the mouth.

A—Learn to make up your mouth in a wider outline. The tiny mouth does tend to make you look old.

Q—Must the lips and fingernails match in colour?

A—Yes, it's smarter and prettier to match the lips and fingernails. But you can buff your nails or use a very pale or a colourless polish.

BOYS AND GIRLS MAGAZINE

Teddy Bear Was Very Puzzled

—He Wanted to Know Where the Sun Slept—

BY MAX TRELL

TEDDY, the Stuffed Bear, said there was something he couldn't understand, and that he wished someone would explain to him. "It's about the sun," he said.

Everyone in the playroom, including Knarf and Handi, the shadow-children with the turned-about names, asked Teddy the Stuffed Bear what it was about the sun he didn't understand.

"I don't understand," said Teddy. "Why it goes down in one part of the sky and rises in another. Where is it all night?"

Mary-Jane, the Rag Doll, said it went to sleep somewhere behind the hill. But she couldn't explain why it rose in a different part of the sky the next morning. "I've often wondered about that myself," she said.

Lived in Clock

Mrs Cuckoo, who lived in the clock, said it wouldn't do for the sun to be out all night because it then wouldn't give the stars a chance to shine.

Miss China-Doll said: "I think it goes down so that the children will know it's time for supper."

"But where is it all night?" Teddy the Stuffed Bear repeated.

Here the Tin Soldier said: "I know where it is. It's in China. When it's night time here, it's day-time in China. And when it's day-time here, it's night time in China."

"You mean it goes all around the world?" said Teddy.

"I'm not too sure about that," said the Tin Soldier. "I don't know how it manages to get to China. Maybe though I didn't know how it got there."



Teddy Bear had a question

quite a long trip to China," he added.

Finally Handi said she knew. "I read about it in a book," she said. "The sun doesn't really move at all. But our Earth spins round and round like a ball. We live on one side of the ball and the Chinese live on the other side. And when our side faces the sun, it's day time for us, and the China-side is dark. But when the China side faces the sun, we're in the dark, and it's night time for us."

The Earth Turns Round

"And because the Earth is turning round and round, the sun seems to go down on one side and come up on the other."

"I guess that must be right," everyone else in the room agreed.

Only Teddy, the Stuffed Bear, still seemed puzzled. "Maybe that's right," he said, "and maybe it isn't. I wish I were in China now and could really see that the sun was shining. Then I'd really be able to know where it went, even if I didn't know how it got there."

The Lad Who Was Born For The Big Top

(Continued from Yesterday)

EARLY the next afternoon one of the Barlows drove up with his shiny buggy and beautiful mare to the work tent, which adjoined the animal quarters. I had been pumping a forge to help the blacksmiths.

Sliek was doing some minor chores nearby, and we exchanged greetings pleasantly. Mr. Barlow waved to him and then called out to me. "Joe, come on to town with me. I've got some errands I want you to run. I guess the work tent can wait."

But that is just what the work tent didn't do. As we started away I was startled to see the boss suddenly whip up the mare and wheel back towards what I now could see was a billowing fire. The work tent and equipment were going up. And it adjoined the big one wherein more than \$50,000 worth of animals were quartered!

In selecting our grounds, as we nearly always did in the smaller towns, we had pitched our lot close to one of the big railway water tanks. As we dashed up I could see that the men already had a line of hose from the tank connection to the blaze. But no water.

(More Tomorrow)

Rupert & Mr Punch—21



At Rupert's cry Algy wakes with a start, and he, too, gapes round in a panic, and at first he is quite speechless. The sea is still rising, so the little friends scramble desperately on to the two posts and shout until they are hoarse. Before long the hammock is under water. "This is awful," gasps Algy. "If the tide comes over these water tanks we're done for!" Suddenly Rupert points to a speck which appears from some distant rocks. "Look," he cries. "A boat!"

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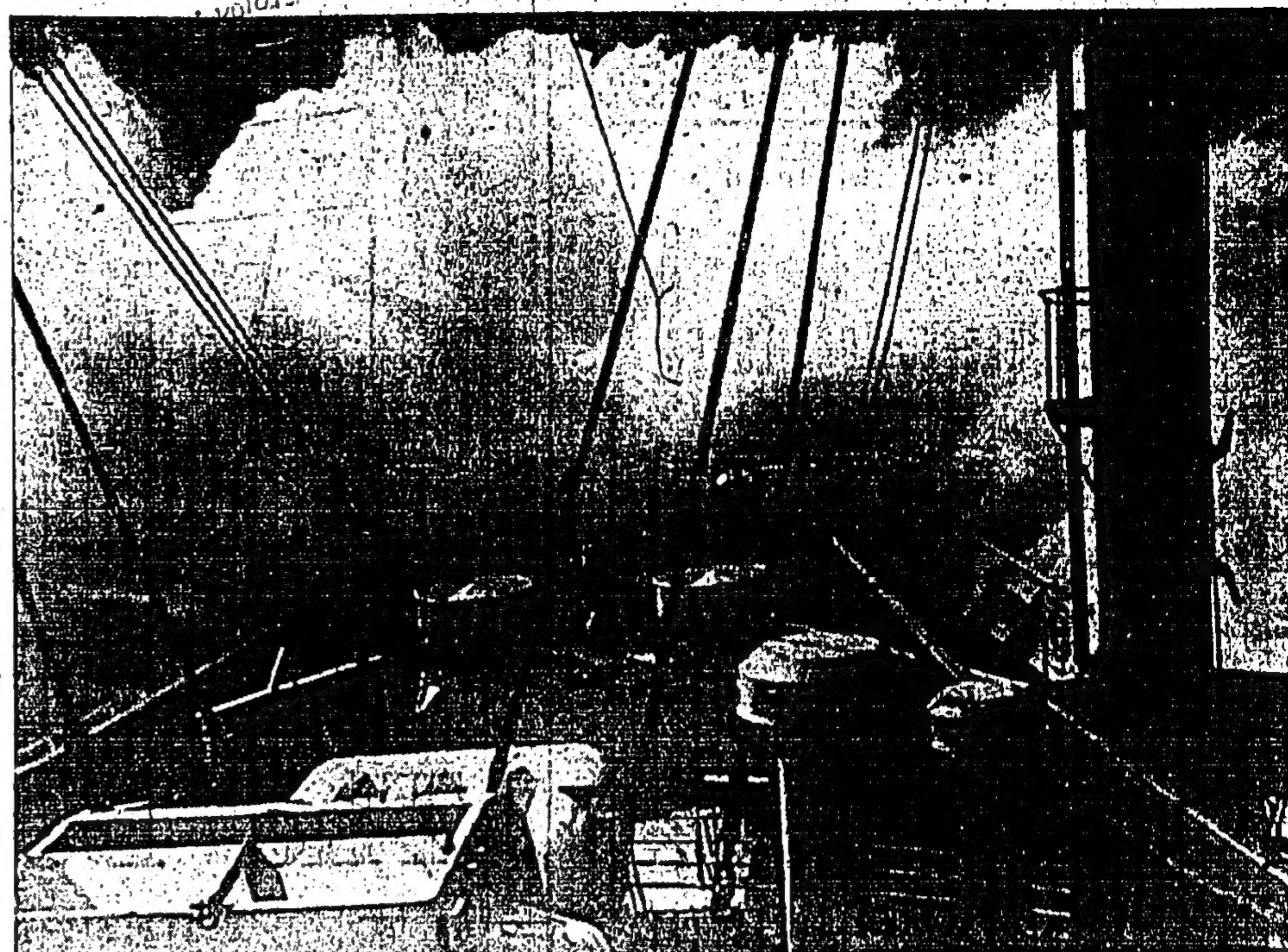
WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



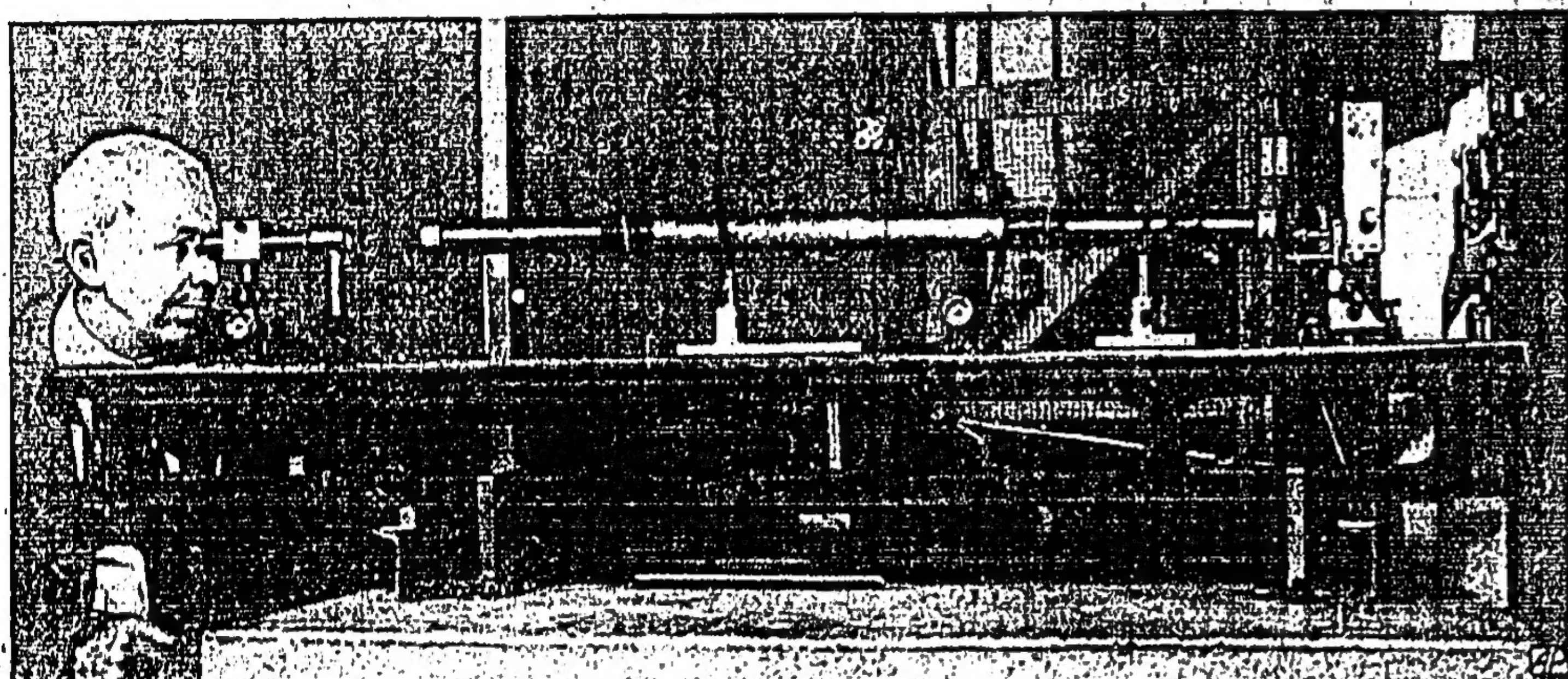
ACTRESS TURNS ARTIST—Gypsy Rose Lee, strip-teaser, writer and amateur artist, points to her painting, "Adam and Eve," which she contributed to a New York charity exhibition.



CHIEF—Lt. Gen. Curtis E. Lemay, aged 42, as chief of the U.S. General Strategic Air Command, is new head of America's long range bombing fleets. He directed B-29 raids on Japan from China and Saipan.



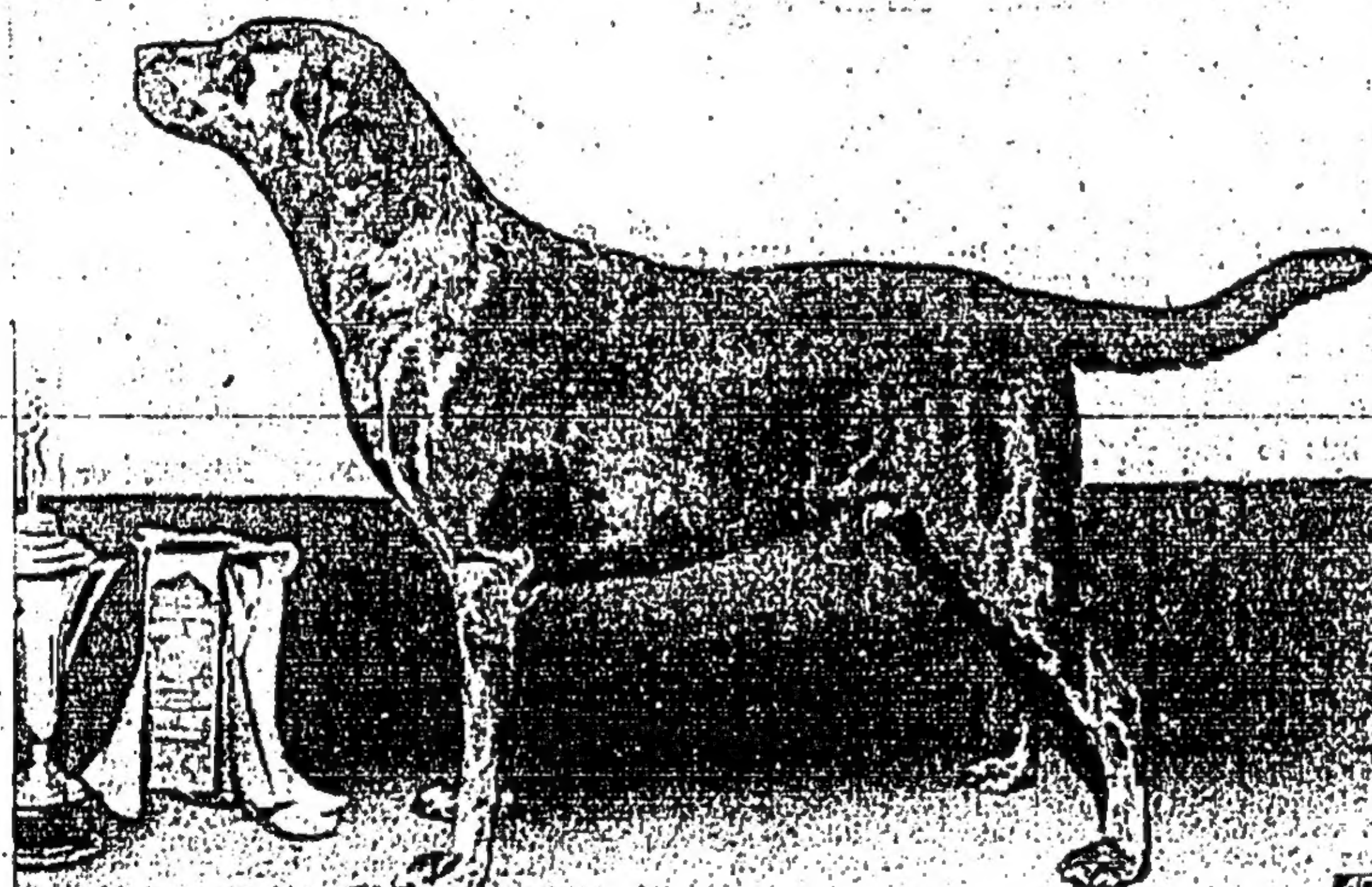
ROUGH PASSAGE—A huge wave batters the liner America during its Atlantic crossing as an alert photographer records the scene. One wave struck the ship's bridge, from where this picture was taken, breaking three windows in the wheelhouse. The captain, John W. Anderson, told of the hectic crossing after the battered ship docked in New York. The heavy storm delayed the vessel's arrival for 24 hours.



X-RAY MICROSCOPE—Dr Paul H. Kirkpatrick uses an eyepiece to focus the X-ray microscope he developed at Stanford University. The eyepiece is replaced by film in operation. So far, magnification has reached far more than that of the optical microscope. The new device also permits study of living subjects. This is in contrast to the electronic microscope, in which objects to be studied must be placed in a vacuum after they are dead. The X-rays are focused by dime-size metallic mirrors.



GRACEFUL—Emma Kuller of Genoa, Italy, rehearses for her role in a Pompili ballet at the Rome Opera House.

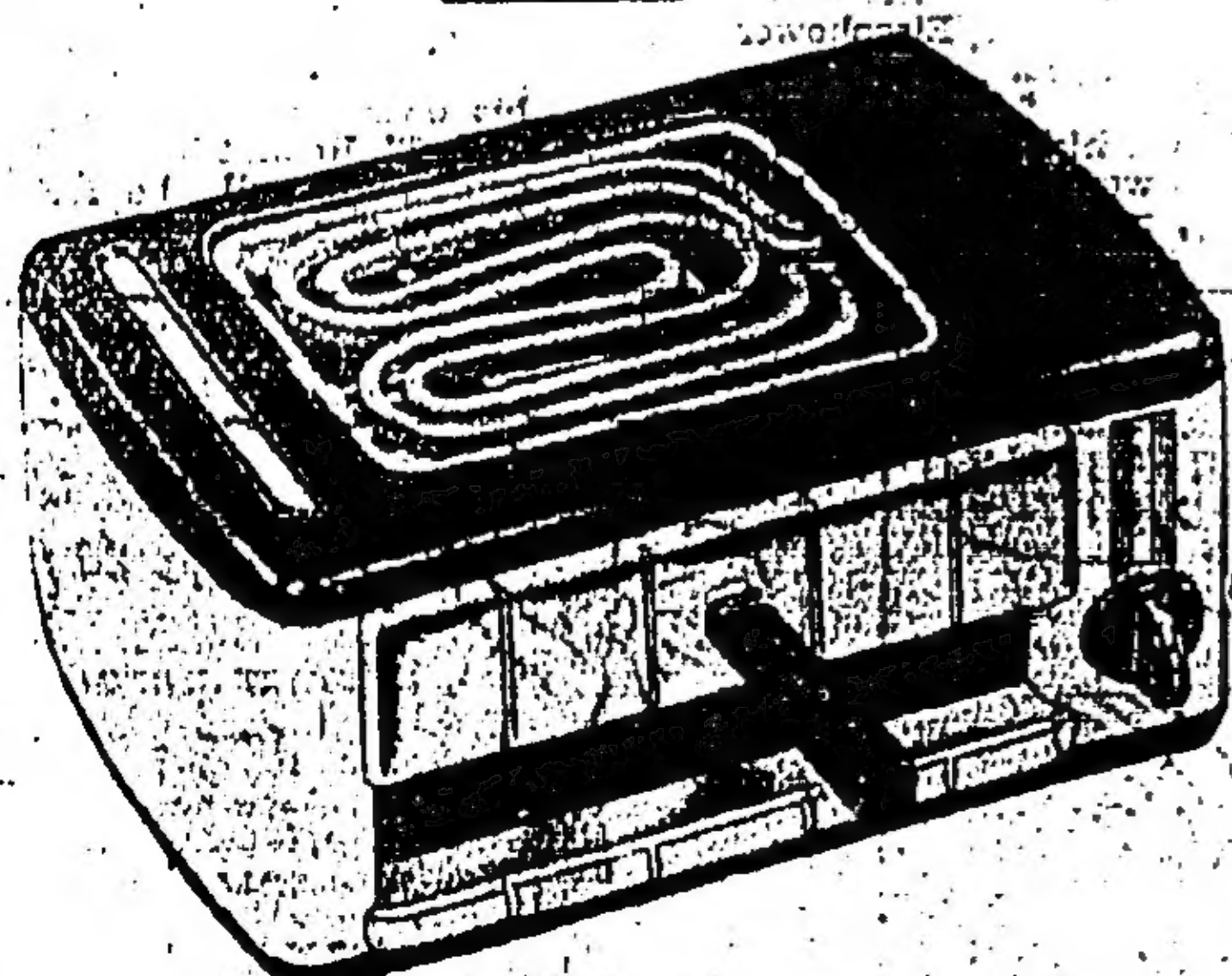


CHAMPION—This Labrador retriever, Champion Stowaway at Deer Creek, was judged best in show and best American-bred dog at the South Dakota Kennel Club show at Sioux Falls. The two-year-old, owned by Gerald Livingston of New York, has won five best-in-show honours.



EXPULSION FROM HUNGARY—Paul Ruedemann, left, and George Bannantine arrive in New York. Executives of the Hungarian plant of the Standard Oil Company, they were, according to their stories, forced to sign confessions of sabotage against their own company. Ruedemann said the Hungarians took the land, worth about US\$25,000,000.

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HAPPY HIPPOPOTAMUSES—"One more rehearsal and we'll be ready for the concert hall," grunts Otto, cavern-jawed hippopotamus at the Whipsnade Zoo. His mate, Mimi, right, opens just as wide to make it a duet. Otto can make himself heard throughout the zoo even with a mouthful of hay.

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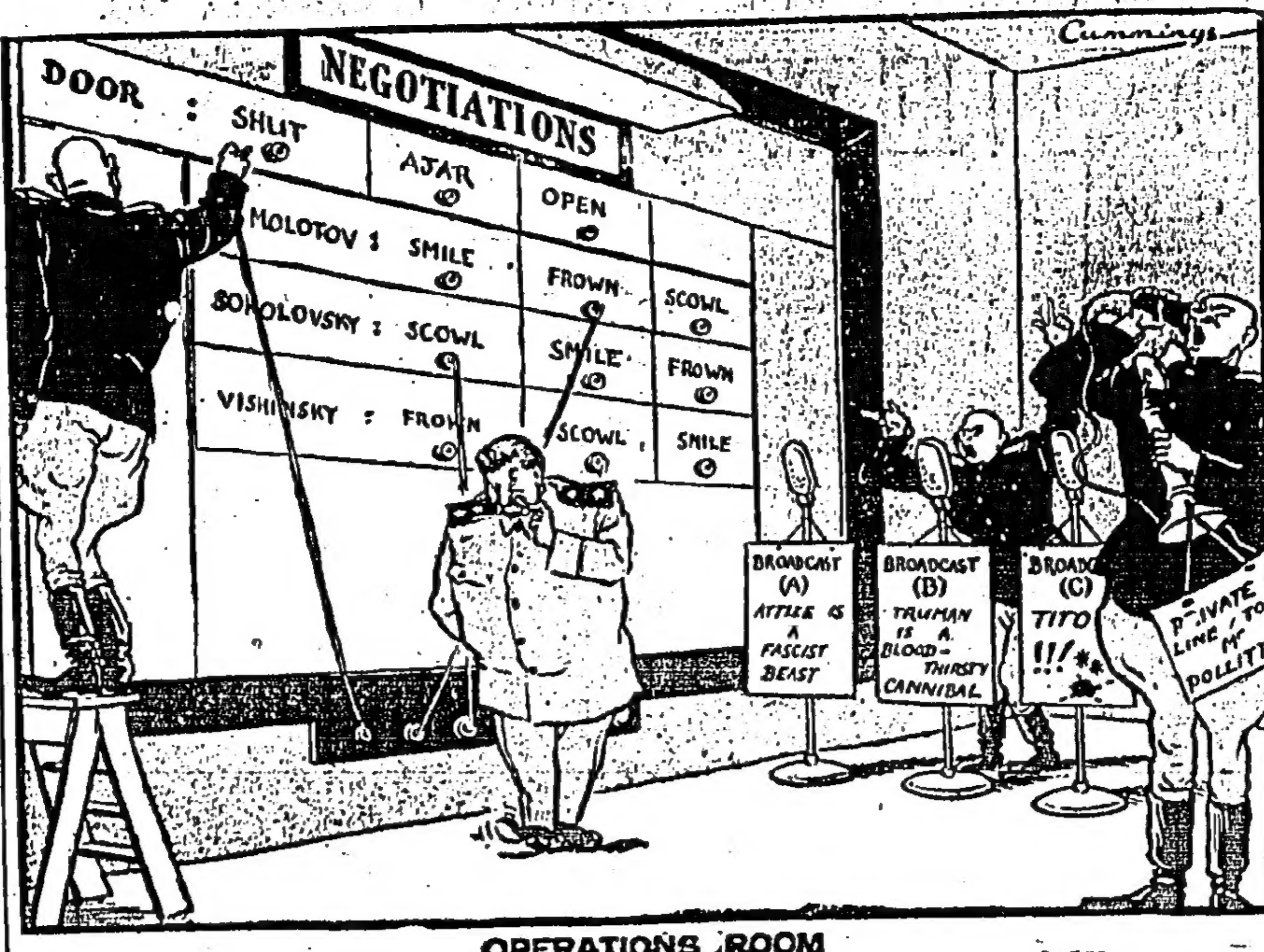
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ENTIRELY NEW PRINT!



OPERATIONS ROOM

The Berlin Siege In Finer Focus

BY SELKIRK PANTON

BERLIN. A GERMAN friend today told me this story now going the rounds in Berlin.

Peter the Great, the first Russian Czar to "open a window" on the West, was besieging in 1700 a German fortress held by the Swedish king's forces. A river sweeping along both sides of the fortress made it impregnable.

The Russian Czar suggested negotiations for an honourable surrender. Talks began and went on through the summer and autumn, and always there was a hitch and delay. Then winter came. The Czar suddenly broke off negotiations.

He attacked the fortress across the first newly formed ice and took it with ease.

This to the Berliners in the Western sectors and to the Western Allies in the city is not a funny story, but to the Russians it has an element of humour. To all of them it is an allegory.

At the end of telling it Berliners and Western Allies alike discuss this coming winter, already sending its advance winds bitterly through Berlin's ruins.

This winter, they say, will decide the Berlin issue, and the allegory will be true today unless the new czar decides—or is persuaded by UNO—to end his siege.

No luxuries

ONE thing is certain. The Anglo-American air-lift gallant as it is, cannot bring enough coal into Berlin this winter.

British and American planes, flying in fog and snow even under war conditions, can bring in enough food for the 2,300,000 Berliners in the Western sectors, and just enough coal to keep power plants and essential factories working at a minimum.

But they cannot bring any coal to heat Berlin's homes, and Berlin, cold at any time, will be the coldest city in Europe.

The cold weather is already here and the British, too, are repeating the allegory of Peter the Great. Now sadly short of drink and even minor luxuries, they argue bitterly about how we got into this

situation. What they say goes something like this:

We have manoeuvred ourselves—or allowed the Russians to manoeuvre us—into a position where, because of our difficulties, we have had to call on the Security Council for help. If it were a military action there would be only one thing for the commander to do—surrender.

People here remember that when British troops entered Berlin more than three years ago Brigadier W. R. N. Hinde, Deputy British Commander, declared publicly that if the Russians insisted on their demand that we should feed our Western Berliners we should have to get out of the city.

The first sign

HE was right, but we gave way, and the first great improvisation started. All the food for two-thirds of the city was brought hundreds of miles by train, lorry and barge. That was the first sign of Russian intentions, and the chance for the Western Allies to get out gracefully came in December 1947, following the collapse of the London Four-Power Conference on Germany.

The Russians warned us then that if we went ahead with our plans to set up a Western German Government it meant the end of four-Power government in Germany, and the main reason for staying in Berlin was gone.

The Russian squeeze tightened. The British and Americans started saying, "We are going to stay in Berlin."

Finally, both Mr. Bevin and Mr. Marshall committed their Governments to that policy. It was proclaimed loudly long before anybody had considered how we were going to stay if the Russians wanted us out. Then the blockade.

At the moment the Western Allies are taking the second road. The air-lift and the Security Council move give limited breathing space.

It may be enough to stop the ice forming hard enough for the Berlin forges to be stormed. But it cannot relieve a besieged city. That is why the Russians, who alone can do that, find some humour in the story of Peter the Great and his talks.

The second great improvisation—the £100,000-a-day air-lift—was the only possible way to avoid retreat. And the Russians lean back and watch. They are certain we will not go to war over Berlin, and they are confident that, notwithstanding anything the United Nations can do, the blockade will beat us in the end.

Three courses

TIME is on their side, and in the absence of good news from Paris there are only three courses open to us:

1 TO WITHDRAW FROM BERLIN. This would mean loss of face and the betrayal of Berliners who have been encouraged to reveal their anti-Communist feelings by our promises to remain.

It would sow suspicion in Western Germany and Europe that we are again in a Munich state of mind. It would rob the latent democratic forces in the Eastern satellite States of all hope of liberation by a Western victory in the East-West clash.

2 TO REMAIN IN BERLIN unable to keep our commitments, either to ourselves or the Berliners, with the Russians whittling away our authority. In such circumstances the Germans themselves might finally ask us to retire—defeated from the field.

3 TO THREATEN FORCE, or use force itself, to break the blockade.

At the moment the Western Allies are taking the second road. The air-lift and the Security Council move give limited breathing space.

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C.V.R. THOMPSON RETURNS TO HIS NEW YORK BEAT

New York, Oct. 6. THERE is a new sign today that America is slipping back to normal.

Meat prices have started to drop. In the inflationary boom of the last 18 months the meat has been so scarce that anyone having a steak dinner had to take out a new mortgage.

Overnight, 6s. steaks have vanished from the shops. Today meat prices are down by as much as 5d. a lb. Tonight I bought two large lamb chops—nearly a week's ration for two in Britain—for 3s. 6d. Last week's price was 4s. 9d.

More cuts are promised as the result of slumping prices in Chicago's wholesale markets.

Why there is a slump: Farmers, afraid of a price break, are sending

all the hogs and cattle they can find to market, and the more at the market the faster the price goes down.

WAR BOOKS are now coming out in America by the score. And whereas the novelist after World War I revolted mostly against mud and officers, this generation of postwar novelists seems to be concentrating on officers and the girls they left behind them.

The general approach to the girls, whether they are in Britain, France, Italy, or even the South Seas, is that they are much better women than the much-maligned American woman.

A LOS ANGELES furniture store publishes this advertisement:

10TH INSTALMENT:

MRS OKSANA KASENKINA'S OWN STORY

RELATED TO AND EDITED BY ISSAC DON LEVINE

WITHIN two weeks of my arrival in the United States I found myself enclosed by the iron curtain which shuts off all Soviet citizens on assignments abroad, but which remains invisible to the people in whose midst they live.

I first saw New York at dawn on June 15, 1946, from the Soviet freighter Kirov, a former Liberty ship. Being just a plain teacher, and not a Soviet bureaucrat, I had spent some seven weeks travelling from Moscow to America, with long stop-overs at Black Sea ports, and on board ship in Marseilles and Gibraltar.

The natural science teacher is here, was the word that spread in the Soviet colony as soon as I was conducted to the diplomatic school on East 87th Street at Park Avenue, where I was quartered in a pleasant room. Vice-Consul Sorokin assigned a teacher, Valentina Orlova, to act as my escort. She had been in the United States for quite a while, and it was not long before I discovered that she was a member of the Communist Party.

First Contact

MY first contact with life in America was a visit to a delicatessen store. I could not believe my eyes at the sight of all the meats and other food products. Everything seemed so cheap to me, with no ration cards, and no queues in the street. "What wealth!" I could not help exclaiming. My companion looked askance at my unconcealed exuberance.

I was taken on a tour of the parkway along the Hudson River, and it seemed to me like a scene from paradise—the fabulous traffic against the background of great natural beauty. To think that all these myriads of motor cars were being driven by capitalists! Could it be that everybody in the United States was a capitalist, I mused.

Next I went on a shopping trip to some of the leading department stores. The variety of goods offered was simply breath-taking. That there was no limit to what anyone could buy and that the stock was inexhaustible, seemed incredible to one who was accustomed to standing in line in Moscow, often to be told that the article you had been waiting for was all sold out. And what Moscow teacher could afford to shop in the best department store there—the Mostorg?

Wonder Of Wonders

THE wonder of wonders was the five-and-ten cent store on Fifth Avenue where I was taken. A Soviet citizen in her sweetest dreams cannot conjure up such a profusion of everyday goods, and I was astonished that the throngs outside did not clean out the shelves and the counters in a mad rush, such as would occur in Moscow were such a magic store to be opened. "So this is what the United States gives its people," I remarked to my guide. This was heresy, especially since it was the unwritten law among all the Communist officials to run down everything American. These Communists stocked up with more American goods than the ordinary Soviet citizens, and yet they were the loudest in bemoaning American merchandise as compared with Russian.

On a walk through Central Park, Orlova casually asked me: "What kind of a tree is this? And what's that?" I quickly perceived that I was being given a test in natural science. There were other questions about plants and flowers. I had occasion to show off my know-

ledge to the ignorant Communist girl when I pointed out to her that in America there are different species of oaks and maples, whereas in Russia we have but one kind of these trees. I had no trouble in identifying the various flowers and shrubs, and obviously made a deep impression.

This examination was clearly inspired by the local bureaucrats, who did not altogether trust the Moscow authorities. Suppose I had a "pull" back home and managed to get for myself a junket to America as so many Communist teachers did? They earned it through denunciation, spying, and similar services for Soviet dignitaries.

Soviet America

THAT I was to live in a little here, was the word that spread in the Soviet colony as soon as I was conducted to the diplomatic school on East 87th Street at Park Avenue, where I was quartered in a pleasant room. Vice-Consul Sorokin assigned a teacher, Valentina Orlova, to act as my escort. She had been in the United States for quite a while, and it was not long before I discovered that she was a member of the Communist Party.

We understand that some of our teachers are sending letters through the United States mail. Why not send it through the Soviet diplomatic pouch?

We took this as an order, knowing full well that our mail would be censored in the Soviet Consulate when we turned it in, but realising that failure to do so would entail severe penalty. It also meant that I could not write the truth about America. An enthusiastic description would subject me to suspicion as a counter-revolutionary.

Together with the censorship of mail went a ban on subscribing to American newspapers and only one New York paper, *Russky Golos*, printed in Russian, a pro-Soviet publication following the party line, was recommended to us. To be seen with the other Russian daily, the anti-Communist *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, a democratic paper, was dangerous, and one had to buy it surreptitiously and read it secretly.

Ordered To Move

I felt sick two weeks after my arrival and ran a temperature, but kept at my duties. In the midst of the director appearing to order from the Consul that I vacate my room within 24 hours. I protested that I was ill and could not move upon such short notice. He brushed my objections aside and demanded that I sign the order.

The following morning my things, papers, books, clothes and even plant specimens were tossed helters-skelter into boxes, and I was taken with my belongings to 89th Street and Columbus Avenue, the apartment of Alexander Y. Porjnikov, secretary of the Soviet Consulate. "I'll never forgive you this forcible moving," I flung at the director before leaving my quarters in the school building. The room now assigned to me was dark, facing a shaft. I did not even have a radiator, so that in the winter it was cold and the door had to be kept open to get some heat.

Porjnikov, a Moldavian Communist from Bessarabia, had the mark of the NKVD about him, as did his wife, Zoya. From now on I had to watch my step, whether I went for a walk, to shop for groceries, or to visit a museum or library. To be seen in conversation with a stranger might have serious consequences. The lot in shadow of the NKVD began to black out the sunny promise of life in New York.

(Continued Tomorrow)

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NANCY Tasty Ammunition



36 Parliaments Represented At London Parleys

London, Oct. 19.—Migration and the distribution of population were discussed by delegates from 36 Parliaments of the British Commonwealth when the first Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference since the war began here today.

The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, who welcomed the delegates as "fellow Parliamentarians who practise democracy and not merely use it as a cloak for a perverted form of Government."

Charged With Assault And Robbery

The trial of Lau Tak, alias Lau Sang-ku, alias Tung Ka-ming, who is accused of assisting a constable with intent to rob him of his pistol, began before Mr. Justice Reynolds at the Supreme Court this morning. Lau is also charged with robbery by two or more.

Mr. A. Hooton, Crown Counsel, stated that the Crown's case was that the accused was one of a gang of armed men who assaulted PC 185, Tang Cheung, in May last year and robbed a student, Wu Kwok-wai, of a camera three weeks later. The case relied almost entirely on statements made by the accused.

PC Tang went off duty at 1 a.m. on May 1, 1947 and spent his time watching a play at the Hau Kwok Temple, Causeway. He said Mr. Hooton. Suddenly he was seized by the arms from behind and seven men, who were armed with revolvers, held him up. They pushed him along and forced him to some bushes near by. There they asked him for his pistol, but as he had handed it in to the Sergeant when going off duty, the robbers were unable to find it on him, so that they released him.

Dealing with the second charge, Mr. Hooton said on June 1, the Ching Shan Monastery, Causeway, with some friends when six armed men appeared while they were preparing to have lunch. The armed men took Wu to a monk's cabin where they took away his camera.

YELLIN TO GO ON TRIAL

Tel-Aviv, Oct. 19.—The Israeli Military Attorney General, Major Hutor Yehiel declared on Tuesday that Friedman Yellin alias Nathan Mor, leader of the disbanded Stern Gang, will be tried before a military court early in November on charges of forging military documents and possession of illegal arms.

Yellin and his aide-de-camp, Matityahu Shmuelovitz, will also be tried for being members of an illegal terrorist organization.

The prosecutor disclosed that 170 former Stern Gang members are still in prison and 48 have been released.

Those still under arrest are refusing to be interrogated and therefore their release on trial is delayed.

—Associated Press.

Council To Examine Berlin "Decisions" On Friday

(Continued from Page 1)

4. The most important point—the manner in which the Russians imposed these restrictions unilaterally and by the issue of a series of ultimatums.

Sir Alexander went on: "Since the compilation of this account news has reached me—this morning in fact—of yet further measures to prevent any foot traffic between Berlin from the Soviet Zone."

Lorries had been stopped and the local Soviet Commander had said that no food would be able to pass that way in the future. "And yet, the Soviet authorities say that there is no blockade."

While the British delegate was speaking, the chief Soviet delegate, Mr. Vyshinsky, read a magazine and Mr. Manulsky, of the Ukraine, read what appeared to be a pocket edition.

FREE FROM DURESS
Mr. Philip Jessup (United States) said that the three Western Powers did not wish to avoid discussions with the Soviet Union, but wished to talk "free from duress."

He added that in demanding the immediate lifting of the Berlin blockade, he was in no way seeking to be released from our commitment to carry out the joint directive drawn up in Moscow on August 30 to the four Military Governors in Berlin.

(This directive laid down the lines on which the four Military Governors should work out the details for lifting the blockade, introducing the Soviet mark as Berlin's sole currency, a satisfactory basis for trade between Berlin and Western Zones, and third countries, and provision of sufficient currency for Berlin's budget and for occupation costs.)

Mr. Jessup said: "The blockade is a method used by the Soviet Union for the expansion of its power in utter disregard of the joint responsibilities and with a callous indifference to the effect of

Pointing out that this Conference was the largest of its kind ever held in the history of the Commonwealth, Mr. Attlee said it was a "family gathering for understanding" rather than for formal resolutions.

It complemented the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers which was being held parallel to it. Mr. Attlee particularly welcomed the delegates of the new Dominions of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, whose presence, he said, showed how great had been the expansion of Parliamentary government.

Mr. Philip Noel-Baker, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, said that 400,000,000 out of 550,000,000 people of the Commonwealth were now fully self-governing, whereas in 1908 not more than 10 per cent of the total population had self rule.

Because of the expanding Parliamentary government, the Commonwealth was far stronger today than 40 years ago.

The countries taking part in the discussion on migration and distribution problems were India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Canada, Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Malta, Trinidad, Mauritius and the Gold Coast.

All sessions of the Conference are being held in private.—Reuter.

China Light's New Plant

A new 200,000-bp boiler fire unit is to be erected at the China Light and Power Company's generating station as soon as the expert engineer, Mr. Church, arrives from England. It will take ten months to fit it up, and will be run on oil.

An added 15,000 kilowatts of electricity will then be available to meet ever increasing demands. It has long been the intention of the China Light and Power Company to install a new boiler unit similar to the one in existence now. One was ordered, and parts arrived, just before the outbreak of war. However, all that the Japanese left it when they went away were the drums and certain structural steelworks.

A new turbine is also awaiting completion and the arrival of steam pipes is responsible for the delay in commissioning. It is a 20,000 kilowatt set, 6,000 volts which was ordered in 1945.

ACTRESS WEAKER

Kingsley, New York, Oct. 19.—The screen actress, Elissa Landi, who is ill in hospital here, was reported "growing weaker" today.

Hospital attendants said her condition was "more serious now than at any time since she was admitted to hospital."—United Press.



So elaborate a Chinese funeral as that of Mrs. Tann, a septuagenarian resident, which took place on Saturday, is rarely seen in Hongkong, nowadays. The procession, with its figures, floats and scrolls, was a long one and rivalled anything seen in pre-war days. The three figures here shown are guides who will escort the spirit of the departed person in the other world. (Francis Wu).

Plea Against Racial Discrimination

Paris, Oct. 19.—Mr C. S. Jha, Secretary-General of the Indian delegation to the United Nations, told the Trusteeship Committee today that it was of the utmost importance that the administration of trust areas should be kept free from racial influences.

Racial discrimination prevailed in many parts of Africa, he said, and unfortunately in recent years had shown a tendency to spread.

"The peoples of the world who do not yet enjoy freedom—and there are many millions in Africa and Asia—look for inspiration to the United Nations, both as a body having some responsibility for the supervision of the administration of backward areas included in the Trust Territories, and as a form of world public opinion."

"The work of the Trusteeship Council, therefore, is of the utmost importance to them and all others who value not only their freedom, but the freedom of other peoples. Our delegation expects that the administering powers will co-operate as partners in a noble endeavour with a broad and progressive appreciation of their functions as administering authorities."

"The Trusteeship provisions of the Charter, among its most liberal provisions, were of great importance to millions of people inhabiting areas of the world under United Nations Trusteeship."

DELEGATION'S VIEWS
Mr. Jha said that his delegation attached the greatest importance to the various trusteeship agreements that had been entered into between the United Nations and administering authorities.

The manner of the working of the Trusteeship Council was bound to have an indirect influence on the administration of colonies, since Trust Territories were mostly situated in the midst of colonial areas.

The views of his delegation, expressed more than once, were:

1. Close supervision by the United Nations through the Trusteeship Council over the administration of trust territories.

2. Attainment of self-government, or independence by trust territories as envisaged in the Charter at the earliest possible time.

3. Prevention of all racial discrimination, elimination of it when it existed by legislation or administrative practice.

4. Observance of trusteeship agreements by administering powers in a broad and liberal spirit.

UNSATISFACTORY REPLY
The three powers took the matter back to Moscow to obtain agreement by the Soviet Government of the principles of the directive to the Military Governors.

He added: "We obtained an unsatisfactory reply, and we came to the considered opinion that the Soviet Government was attempting to secure political objectives to which it was not entitled and which it could not achieve by peaceful means."

"We discovered that the talks were holding were serving as an excuse to prolong the blockade rather than as a method of removing it."

After describing the last exchange of notes with Moscow, Mr. Jessup went on to say that the answer to the question of why the whole matter was not settled on the basis of the joint directive to the Military Governors was that "it was the Soviet blockade measure which caused the threat to the peace, and the Soviet Government refused to lift the blockade."

He added: "The Soviet Government created the threat to the peace and the Soviet Government can remove it."

The French delegate, M. Alexandre Parodi, also spoke along similar lines, after which the Chairman adjourned the meeting until Friday as no other delegates volunteered to speak.—Reuter.

Britain Builds Half Of World's Ships

London, Oct. 19.—Lloyd's Register shipbuilding returns for the quarter ended September 30, issued here today, shows that of the 4,203,873 tons gross of steamers and motorships under construction in the world, 52.6 per cent is being built in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and 47.4 per cent in other countries.

The figures for Germany, Japan and Russia are not included. During the quarter in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 230,200 tons of steamers and motorships were begun, 271,079 tons launched, and 271,021 tons completed.

The similar figures for abroad were 45,239 tons begun, 200,839 tons launched and 254,563 tons completed.

All the vessels exceeding 25,000 tons are being built in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Among the leading countries, France is building 385,612 tons of shipping, Sweden 263,025 tons, Italy 221,537 tons, Holland 211,327 tons, Denmark 190,490 tons and Spain 160,780 tons.

Of steam and motor oil tankers of 1,000 tons gross and upwards, Sweden is building 13 totalling 133,000 tons. France is building seven totalling 78,035 tons and Denmark five totalling 55,000 tons.—Reuter.

Labour Party's Idea Of Western Union

London, Oct. 19.—The final aim of Western Union should be "to produce a third centre of power independent alike of America and Russia," the Labour Party, in a "study of Western Europe," published today, stated.

It considers that if the countries of Western Europe could act together as one, their collective resources in population, industrial capacity and raw material would give them power in the world equal to either America or Russia.

The report declared: "A strong united Europe might act as a bridge between East and West where a divided Europe has conspicuously failed."

At the moment, Europe's most valuable military protection against aggression from the East is the few thousand American troops in Germany and Austria....

SPAIN'S ALTERNATIVE

The study adds that Spain cannot take part in the work of uniting Europe as a "stronghold of political liberty" until she is freed from the "Franco dictatorship."

The attitude of Greece and Turkey "has strengthened the feeling that for many reasons it might be better if Greece and Turkey could be treated separately from the European Recovery Programme."

Their economic needs are primarily strategic and neither of them is geographically a part of Western Europe. "Turkey does not share the cultural heritage on which Western civilization is based."

The countries of Europe, the study adds, must recognise "the supreme importance of building up friendly association between the British Commonwealth and Western Union."

It says that any Union of Western Europe must include Germany. It rejected both customs union and federation as practical possibilities for Western Europe in the near future.—Reuter.

FRANCE GOES RIGHT

Paris, Oct. 19.—The new council of the Upper House of France, is going to take a sharp swing to the right. Figures compiled on Tuesday from Sunday's election indicated that the Communists will have only about 130 members of the 220 in the Assembly, this compared with 219 in the old one.

The rightists will have the balance of about 100 compared with 83 the last time.

In the present assembly there are a few members who defy classification. The greatest losses will be the Communists and the Catholic Popular Republicans.

The elections do not represent exactly the strength of various parties in France. The voting for the council is weighted in favour of the country districts where the Conservatives are stronger and against big cities where the Communists and leftists generally are stronger.—Associated Press.

British Emigration To Australia

Canberra, Oct. 19.—British emigrants to Australia in the next three years were expected to total 230,000, the Australian Immigration Minister, Mr. Arthur Calwell, announced today after a conference with the migration ministers of the Australian States.—Reuter.

More Rice For Asia

Washington, Oct. 19.—The International Emergency Food Committee recommended on Tuesday the shipment of an additional 130,000 metric tons of rice to Asia to help meet deficit supplies due to civil unrest in Southeast Asia.—Associated Press.

Queen's ALHAMBRA

TO-DAY ONLY at 2.15, 4.45, 7.15 & 9.45 P.M.

"I BOUGHT THIS WOMAN... AND I'LL KILL THE MAN WHO TOUCHES HER!"

COOPER GODDARD
East of De Mille
UNCONQUERED
Color by TECHNICOLOR

DAVID L. KARLOFF
KELLY BOND
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A ROADSHOW AT ORDINARY PRICES!

QUEEN'S-LEE-ALHAMBRA Theatres

— OPENS TO-MORROW —
THE PLAY MADE LONG RUN HISTORY!!!
(8-YEAR RUN)

On the screen! Technicolor!

LIFE WITH FEATHER

DUNNE-POWELL
Taylor, Dunne, Powell, Michael, Curtis

— QUEEN'S & LEE — (BOOKINGS NOW OPEN)

Reds Claim Fall Of Changchun

(Continued from Page 1)

Peiping, Oct. 20.—The China News Agency reported yesterday that government forces broke into Chinhsien under heavy air cover and Communist forces had begun a retreat.

Highly placed quarters said this report "might be premature," but they were expecting good news from Chinhsien.—Associated Press.

GENERAL CAPTURED

Nanking, Oct. 20.—General Tseng Tso-shen, the Nationalist Commander of the 60th Army, one of the two Government armies defending Changchun, has been captured by the Communists, a Government military spokesman admitted here yesterday.

Conceding that heavy fighting was now raging in Changchun and that in addition to the commander, part of the 60th Army had also been captured, the spokesman denied a Communist broadcast last night that Changchun had been captured, together with the surrender of the two Nationalist armies.

A Nationalist military spokesman here, contacted by Reuters, denied that the New 7th Army had surrendered, claiming that up to Tuesday afternoon it was still offering resistance within the city.—Reuter-AAP.

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Good News For British Motorists

London, Oct. 19.—British motorists learned today that the 50 miles a month pleasure motoring which they have been permitted since last June is to continue.

The official announcement followed speculation that the petrol ration might be reduced because of the needs of the Berlin airlift and increased defence requirements.—Reuter.

BEARDED VULTURE

London, Oct. 19.—A bearded vulture from Moscow, name of Lammergeyer, has arrived in London. Largest European bird of prey, the Lammergeyer vulture was sent to Regent's Park zoo with some pairs—a snow leopard, a northern lynx and five red-breasted geese.—Associated Press.

BLOCKADE OF BERLIN GROWS

Soviets' Latest Action

Berlin, Oct. 19.—The Soviets, seeking to increase the burden of the Anglo-American airlift, are using police-manned roadblocks to prevent West Berliners from slipping into the Soviet Zone to buy food and other goods with the coveted Deutschmarks, German newspapers reported today.

Der Tag and Der Abend said that since the weekend police blocks had been erected on all strategic points along highways, in railway stations and in country villages, in a fervent effort to halt the importation of food into the blockaded sectors of Berlin.

Persons caught bringing in food, the newspapers said, were being sent to the Soviet uranium mines in Czechoslovakia.

The Tagesschau Rundschau reported that new blockade measures were outlined yesterday, at a meeting of zonal chiefs in Potsdam, by Paul Markgraf, Moscow-trained chief of the Soviet sector German police.

Markgraf reportedly claimed: "On the orders of the Western powers, trucks are being sent out systematically to plunder the Soviet Zone."

"FOOD FOR EVERYBODY"

Commenting on the new restrictions, the Communist Party's Neues Deutschland said there was no need for Western Berliners to attempt to buy food in the Soviet Zone since "adequate high quality food is available for everybody" in stores in the Soviet sector.

"Those who buy in the Soviet sector need not face the supply difficulties of the airlift," said the paper.

Der Tag said Russian machineguns, pistols and other weapons were presented to the police chiefs at police stations in elaborate ceremonies. The Russians said arming of the police was a measure "to protect the people's economy against Western-inspired saboteurs and agitators."

Der Tag reported today the arrival of the first transports of Red Cross food, which will be given to 160,000 old people in the Western sector. It said old age pensioners would receive a meal daily through the Red Cross during the winter and other persons would benefit to a lesser extent.—United Press.

Rhine Navigation Agreement

Geneva, Oct. 19.—An agreement on the Rhine navigation has been signed by the British-American bi-zonal of Germany and the Netherlands and Belgium, the Economic Commission for Europe announced on Tuesday.

Under the agreement, signed after long negotiations, German barges are permitted the use of the navigable waterways of Belgium and Holland. In return, Dutch and Belgian barges can use bi-zonal waterways. The Commission said this represents a long step toward "complete freedom of navigation on the Rhine river."

The agreement includes not only the Rhine but the canals of Belgium and Holland and the British-American occupation zone.—Associated Press.

Japanese Cabinet

Tokyo, Oct. 20.—Two changes were announced today in the new Japanese Government of Shikuro Yoshida. Kotaro Mori (Democrat-Liberal), became Minister without Portfolio and Sanroku Izumiya, already Finance Minister in the new Cabinet is to take over the directorship of the Economic Stabilisation Board as well.—Reuter.

Eire Content About Effect Of Leaving Commonwealth

Dublin, Oct. 19.—The Eireann Cabinet, after sitting for five hours, has little doubt that a satisfactory adjustment of the situation after the repeal of the External Relations Act will be found, it was learned here last night.

The Cabinet, it was stated, was "entirely satisfied" with the report of Mr. Sean McBride, the Eireann Minister for External Affairs, and Mr. Patrick McGilgan, the Finance Minister, on their talks with Commonwealth leaders on Sunday on the proposed repeal of the Act.

The Eire Government appeared satisfied, it was understood in political circles, that nothing which was contemplated on the Irish side need disturb "Imperial Preference."

The Government took the view that so far as citizenship rights were concerned, Englishmen in Eire (Irishmen in Britain) or any Commonwealth country need have no fears that their positions would be made difficult or that any question of deportation would arise.

The External Relations Act, passed in 1936, provides for the use by Eire—virtually independent—of the British Crown for pur-



Wrecked By Tornado

These folks examine the remains of their home flattened by a tornado at Pompano, Fla. More than ankle deep water hampered their salvaging what was left of their belongings.—AP Picture.

Toyada Goes On Trial

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Tokyo, Oct. 19.—Admiral Soemu Toyada, Commander in Chief of the Japanese Navy from May 1944 to May 1945, was today charged with crimes against humanity and violation of the laws and customs of war.

Lieut-General Hiroshi Tamura, once Chief of the Japanese Prisoners of War Bureau in Tokyo, was similarly charged.

They are the first 20 high Japanese military and political personages originally to be tried on charges of waging aggressive warfare. The cases of the remaining 18 are still under investigation.

Admiral Toyada, as the Japanese naval commander, was charged with the responsibility for a wide range of atrocities committed against allied personnel and the civil population in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, including the sack of Manila.

He was one of a deputation which on September 13, 1945, after the Japanese surrender, went to the Imperial Palace to inform the Emperor that the Japanese Imperial Headquarters had been formally abolished.

His arrest was ordered by General MacArthur in December 1945.

Lieut-General Tamura was said to have told Major H. S. Williams, of the Australian Army Directorate of Prisoners of War, in January 1946, that huge piles of documents relating to the fate of tens of thousands of allied war prisoners were burned on the orders of the Japanese war lords on the morning of August 15, 1945. The fires lasted four days, he said.—Reuter.

In Case Of War

Washington, Oct. 19.—The United States Air Force is completing plans to take over the nation's air lines in the event of war.

A contract is being drawn up for signature by each of the air lines which would bind them to place all their planes at the disposal of the armed services if another war should break out.

The plan has yet to be approved by the United States joint chiefs of staff but this is regarded as a mere formality.

The regular air lines own 1,054 planes.—Reuter.

Need For Maintaining Democratic Spirit

COMMONWEALTH PREMIERS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT

London, Oct. 19.—The need for a revival and consolidation of democratic opinion in the Western Hemisphere as a means of preserving peace was agreed on by the Dominion statesmen at a four-hour meeting here today.

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers, who last week considered measures to counter the Communist threat to democracy throughout the Near, Middle and Far East, today focused their minds on Europe's most urgent crisis—Berlin.

Every Prime Minister took part in the discussion. It was understood that there was general agreement on the pressing need for maintaining and stimulating the democratic spirit in Europe.

There was unanimous recognition that the United Nations represented the only existing instrument capable of mobilising, for this purpose, the active support of foreign countries and especially of those occupying a particularly vulnerable position in the present European situation.

It was accepted that speedy economic recovery was a prerequisite to democratic consolidation in Europe.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, gave the Dominion leaders, assembled in a plenary session at No. 10, Downing Street, his considered appraisal of the likely impact of Western Union upon Commonwealth economic and other policies.

VITAL DISCUSSION

The all-day session, probably one of the most vital since the conference began, was ranging over the whole field of Western world questions, including the Marshall Plan, and was complementary to the thorough examination of the problems of the Middle and Far East to which the Dominion leaders gave over a whole day last week.

Service Ministers and Chiefs of Staff again sat in on today's meeting.

The main theme was the Berlin blockade. The general question of Western powers and Western Union, the Brussels Pact, Austria, Trieste, Greece and Italy were also discussed.

Particular problems affecting France were also touched upon.

Mr. Bevin is understood to have placed before the conference the United Kingdom's views on the means of maintaining, with the support of members of the Commonwealth, the United Nations Organisation.

He is believed to have analysed also the methods of securing a revival of the democratic spirit in territories where it has been undermined or temporarily driven underground by the power of dictatorship.

The Dominion leaders thrashed out problems of the veto being exercised in the United Nations when major powers do not agree. There was general agreement that the United Nations must be made to work.

Although the Conference did not concentrate particularly on the dismantling of German industry, this question was considered in relation to the part economic recovery will play in Europe's democratic revival.

NO INCOMPATIBILITY

The Dominion leaders, it was understood, saw no incompatibility between Western Union in Europe and the interests of the Commonwealth group.

One issue of foreign policy which, according to a usually well informed source, has already been discussed in Conference quarters is the American proposal that the Antarctic territories should be placed under an eight-nation condominium of interest parties.

These territories are British colonies but they are also claimed by Argentina and Chile. The British Government is believed to be giving sympathetic consideration to the principle of the proposal.

No information is, however, available so far from official quarters here as to whether it is endorsed by the Commonwealth delegates as a whole.—Reuter.

Death Bed Statements By Brauchitsch

Hamburg, Oct. 19.—Ex-Field Marshal Wilhelm von Brauchitsch, one of the four German generals awaiting trial in war crimes court here, made certain death bed statements, as yet undisclosed, before he died in a British military hospital last night, it was learned today.

His death was caused by coronary thrombosis (blood clot of the heart). It was learned in Rhine Army circles that his wife, who was with him at the end, is herself very ill with heart disease, and may not recover.

Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made, but it is assumed that the body will be handed over to the relatives.

Von Brauchitsch was one of the four German generals awaiting trial as war criminals after being held as prisoner of war in Britain. The other three generals held in Germany are Field Marshals von Rundstedt, 73, Erich von Manstein, 61, and Colonel-General Adolf Strauss, 69. They are in the hospital where von Brauchitsch died.

Their trial for alleged war crimes is expected to be held in January.—Reuter.

Dutch Territory Invaded

Batavia, Oct. 19.—A battalion of crack Indonesian Republican troops crossed the truce line into Dutch-held West Java during September and had since clashed five times with Dutch forces, a Dutch Army communique said today.

This announcement, in an Army communique, coincided with independent reports that subversive activities were "increasing alarmingly" in West Java's rich rubber and tea plantations, including British property.

The troops were said to be of the Siliwangi Division, which evacuated West Java last February under the agreement signed on board the American ship, Renville.

The Dutch communique said the Indonesians suffered losses in material and men and the Dutch troops were taking the necessary measures to end the activities of the remnants of the battalion.

Another Dutch Army statement said that Republican forces, fighting the Communist guerrillas in Central Java had evacuated three small towns south of Sukakarta.

Surakarta is not far from Madiun, former Communist stronghold recently recaptured by Republican Government troops.—Reuter.

Chinese Banks Left With Capital Of Less Than US\$3

Nanking, Oct. 20.—Can you imagine a bank with branches all over an immense country operating on a capital of less than US\$3?

Many such banks exist in China today. The Kin-cheng Banking Corporation—one of the largest Chinese private banks—has a capital of only GY\$11.66. Another well-known Chinese private bank—the Shanghai Commercial and Savings Bank—has a capital of only GY\$3.33. Both less than US\$3; converted on the rate of GY\$4 to US\$1.

The books of the 205 private Chinese banks today show an aggregate capital of GY\$13,118 or US\$3,370. This averages US\$16 for one bank.

This is one of complicated legacies left behind by the Government's recently-announced currency reform, which has to be cleared up.

It came about this way: the banks were established at a time when a dollar was a dollar or, at least, 50 cents in purchasing value. Later the dollar tumbled down to three millionths of its onetime value when the astronomical inflation set in. The banks, however, kept their original capitalisation figures on the books as a basis for calculating dividends.

DOWN TO \$3.33

Then, on August 19, the new Gold Yuan currency was announced and the rate of exchange fixed at CN\$20,000 to GY\$1. Bank deposits, assets and capital were ordered to be converted into the new money.

Thus, overnight, the banks found themselves perched precariously on a capital of only a few bucks. The Sait Industries Bank, which started with CN\$10,000,000 before the war—just that time enough to buy one or two skyscrapers—found its capital dwindled to meagre GY\$3.33.

The government chimed in, "You can't operate with so little capital. You must increase your capital or close down." They were given two months to make up their minds. Requisitions were announced requiring them to hike their capital to a minimum of GY\$1,000,000 within two months. Petitions flowed into Nanking from Shanghai—China's financial nerve centre—complaining that the time was too short and the minimum too high.

The government listened sympathetically and made one concession. The minimum was cut to GY\$500,000, but the deadline remained.

Even with the reduction, many banks have difficulty in collecting the required money and are expected to close shop.

You may think the government a little too harsh, but its policy was decided upon to rectify one of the

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DEATH

KWAN—C. H. Kwun, dearly beloved father of W. H. Kwun, passed away at 10 a.m. 19th October, 1948 at 115, Wellington Road, Kowloon. Funeral service will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday 21st October at the Christian Cemetery, Granplan Road, Kowloon City.

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